

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING**

April 15, 2010, 1:00 p.m.
Indiana Government Center South
Teleconference Center
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Jeanne Mirro, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Karen Ellerbrook, Jon Ford, Linda Goad, Judy Hess, Linda Levell, Jeanne Mirro, Suzie Rentschler, Irene Smith-King, Dick Stifel, Earl Williams

Members via teleconference (non-voting): Sandi Clark

Members absent: Gil Cárdenas, Pam Hicks, Kelly Schreckengast

IAC Staff present: Lewis Ricci, Rex Van Zant, Laura Frank, Kristina Davis, Susan Britsch, April Blevins, Dennis Hardin

Guests: Sue Burk (Regional Arts Partners Consortium Chair), Lawren Mills (Office of the Governor), Jeff Kuehl (Columbus Area Arts Council), John Cain (South Shore Arts), Tetia Lee (Tippecanoe Arts Federation), Eric Rogers (Arts Place), Dave Lawrence (Arts Council of Indianapolis), Mary Jane Schenk (Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana), Donna Catalano (South Shore Arts), Angela Butiste (Community Foundation of St. Joseph County)

Ms. Mirro convened the meeting at 1:08 p.m., welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She remarked on the importance of the meeting, saying that the effort to re-align the IAC budget in this economic environment has been “arduous, a little contentious, but always thought-provoking.” She then recited from poet John O’Donohue:

May we meet today,
Compassionate in heart,
Clear in word,
Gracious in awareness,
Courageous in thought,
And generous in love

1. Approval of March 12 Minutes and Consent Agenda. Ms. Levell moved to adopt the consent agenda. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. Review of 4-Point Plan for Moving Ahead Passed at March Quarterly Meeting. Ms. Mirro asked IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci to briefly review the document which was adopted, pending public input, at the March 12, 2010 Quarterly Business Meeting (“Recommendations for Moving Forward in this Economic Environment”, copy attached). Mr.

Ricci reviewed the four points for recommended changes: 1) administer AOS II grants centrally for the entire state with existing IAC staff; 2) Using the IAC's online granting system, re-granting agents will continue to administer AOS I and a fewer number of project grants; agents will also administer a new category called AOS 0 which will be developed to provide operating grants for the smallest of arts organizations; 3) centralizing the majority of technical services for the state with central, higher quality technical assistance delivered in conjunction with the Indiana Coalition for the and re-granting agent contractors; cultural planning centralized in our strategic planning process; and information referral residing primarily with local providers and organizations; 4) change the name of the Regional Arts Partner system to Regional Grants Administration system; open up system for other organizations to apply to be re-granting agents with a term limit.

3. Review of Public Input. Ms. Mirro asked Mr. Ricci to briefly review public comments from two meetings held on March 24, 2010 (meeting notes attached). Mr. Ricci also remarked that the audio recordings from both meetings are available for listening on the IAC website.

4. Additional Public Comment. Ms. Mirro opened the floor for public comment. First to speak were representatives from the Regional Arts Partner Consortium, who presented a document "Maintaining the Strengths of the Regional Arts Partner Consortium" along with three financial spreadsheets (copies attached). Speakers for the RAPC included Jeff Kuehl (Columbus Area Arts Council), Tetia Lee (Tippecanoe Arts Federation), David Lawrence (Arts Council of Indianapolis), Eric Rogers (Arts Place) and John Cain (South Shore Arts). They emphasized the strengths of the Regional Arts Partner system, and presented an alternative budget scenario. Ms. Mirro thanked the RAPC for their presentation and opened the floor for questions from the Commission. Mr. Stifel remarked that the IAC-approved changes to the regional delivery system are based on a greatly reduced state budget, and that the mission and vision of the Arts Commission, from his perspective as a Commissioner, have not been altered. Ms. Clark remarked that IAC has a strong system in place that has worked very well; there must be fiscal responsibility, but IAC should try to retain the strengths of the partnership and seek a compromise that will keep the partnership in place. Mr. Williams commended the RAPC for performing an "extreme amount of work" in a short period of time. Ms. Rentschler stated that she believes in the Regional Partnership system, that she is especially proud of the Columbus Area Arts Council (Region 9), that thirteen years of effective partnership says a lot, and that she feels very strongly about retaining the Regional Partnership system. Ms. Ellerbrook supported maintaining the Partnership for its advocacy benefit for all citizens of the state.

Additional public comment:

Carol Trimmer (Indiana Public Radio) spoke in support of the RAPC proposal, emphasizing the grass-roots advocacy efforts and the personal interaction on the local level.

Steve Tuchman (former Commissioner) spoke in support of the IAC-approved proposal, emphasizing excellent management of IAC at the executive level, and how much the organization "gets done on so little money". He remarked that it makes sense to try to retain relationships with regional partners, but that "the numbers just aren't there."

Joyce Ribble (arts advocate) spoke from a prepared statement (attached) in favor of the RAPC proposal, calling the IAC-approved plan “complicated, confusing and labor-intensive”. She extolled the RAPC proposal as “the most promising response to the current difficult financial environment,” urging the Commission to “endorse the value of collaboration.”

5. Proposed Adjustments to Passed 4-Point Plan. Mr. Ricci referred to his document “Proposed Changes to Current Passed, Four Point Plan Based on Public Input” and a spreadsheet “Comparisons April 2010” (attached). He began by thanking the RAP Consortium, recognizing their “great wisdom and passion”. He emphasized the high level of quality and accountability associated with an IAC grant, and stressed the importance of making grant amounts relevant in the current economy, so that arts organizations can attract other donors as a result. He remarked that it is costly to keep a certain level of technical service in the state, and such services need to be more targeted rather than in blanket form. He added that 23% of the current grant pool goes to the ten RAP organizations for administering grants, Community Arts Programming, and blanket technical assistance money. The state can no longer afford that large of a percentage of grant money going to that few a number of organizations.

The proposed adjustments to the IAC-approved plan include: 1) allow AOS II grants to continue to be delivered through the Regional system, and that all award levels be approved by the Commission; 2) each Regional representative can apply for up to \$6,000 in Strategic Initiative Money, to specifically address state-wide strategic planning priorities; 3) Community Arts Program grants will be adjusted to amounts more in line with AOS II and AOS I levels.

Mr. Ricci then answered questions from Commissioners Smith-King and Hess. Ms. Ellerbrook mentioned that competition for grants has been embraced by both the IAC and the RAP Consortium, and that Mr. Ricci has always endeavored to raise Indiana’s ranking among all states. Ms. Mirro then opened the floor to questions from the audience, which included Joyce Ribble, Donna Catalano, Eric Rogers, Tom Wilhelmus, and Warren Baumgart. More discussion followed among Commissioners, RAP Consortium members and audience members. The question of changing the name “Regional Arts Partner” system to “Regional Grants Administration” system was introduced. Ms. Hess spoke in favor of retaining the term “Partner”; Mr. Stifel, Ms. Smith-King, Mr. Williams, and Ms. Rentschler also spoke in agreement.

Ms. Hess moved that the Arts Commission continue to use the name “Regional Arts Partner” in reference to those organizations which have contracted with IAC to deliver regional services. Mr. Stifel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Rentschler moved to adopt the Regional Arts Partner Consortium proposal for re-structuring the IAC grant delivery system currently known as the Regional Arts Partner system, “with any necessary modifications (such as allowing for any additional reserve from the budget office) that would remain within the spirit of the RAPC proposal.” Ms. Smith-King seconded the motion. Mr. Stifel remarked that he was not in favor of the RAPC proposal. Ms. Mirro asked for a roll-call vote, which was as follows:

Karen Ellerbrook	No
Jon Ford	No
Linda Goad	No
Judy Hess	No
Linda Levell	No
Jeanne Mirro	No
Suzie Rentschler	Yes
Irene Smith-King	Yes
Dick Stifel	No
Earl Williams	Yes

The motion failed to pass.

Ms. Hess moved that the Arts Commission adopt the amended allocation proposal presented by Mr. Ricci, superseding the motion adopted in the March 12, 2010 Quarterly Business Meeting, and excepting the proposed name change for the Regional Arts Partner system; further, the Commission agrees that as new, undesignated monies become available from the State, additional funding for the Regional Arts Partners will remain a priority in future budgetary decisions. Mr. Stifel seconded the motion. Ms. Mirro asked for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

Karen Ellerbrook	Yes
Jon Ford	Yes
Linda Goad	Yes
Judy Hess	Yes
Linda Levell	Yes
Jeanne Mirro	Yes
Suzie Rentschler	No
Irene Smith-King	No
Dick Stifel	Yes
Earl Williams	Yes

The motion passed.

7. Closing Comments and Adjournment. Ms. Mirro thanked everyone again for their participation. Ms. Goad moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.